821 what they mean by maboya). That is why they say laf'koua noquam th the eating of the moon; laf'koua vicou the eating of the sun. When
821 one or the other[1] occurs, the women and young people dance all night,
535 and once they have started to dance they dare not quit before day. They do not sing at all during this dance, but from time to time utter doleful cries. During this gloomy silence, there is a girl or woman who rattles little pebbles in a gourd and sings alone. The only reason they have for this sad dance is that their food in the ground would die without it.

In their dances, those just mentioned as well as others of rejoicing, they do not hold each other with their hands, but each dances alone. They put their feet together and jump, a little bent over, putting one hand on their head, and the other on a buttock, and change them constantly. This dance tires them so, that finally they are completely exhausted.

785 Among their superstitions they have none more rigorous than their fasts, and as they fast for several reasons and at different times, we shall speak of each in its place.

805 Let us say here what would not be more appropriate elsewhere. They calculate their year by the course of the Pleiades, which they
[821] call siric. They know several stars and know approximately when
● 802 they will have rain or wind. They count no higher than five; if they have to say ten, they say: all my fingers. If twenty, they show their feet and their hands, and they would not know how to say any more.

CHAPTER IV

Their Ornaments

241 Our Caribs never wear clothes, neither men nor women, except for a few chiefs when they come among us. They do not even cover their shameful parts. This is contrary, nevertheless, to the custom of the savages of the mainland, [54] where both men and women have a sort of cotton band covering what nature is ashamed to show.

302 Men and women wear their hair long; at the front they cut it halfway up the forehead and let it hang in the style of a little girl.

[1] [i.e. An eclipse of the moon or sun.--Analyst]

757 arrow and now and then he suffered from the old wound. It was favorably treated by this remedy. When the Caribs have a swelling on the arm they incise it with an agouti tooth and make it bleed. Then they take a big papaya and when it is half cooked in the ashes they apply it hot against the swelling to draw off the inflammation. [141]

821 The Caribs do not understand what happens when there is an eclipse and they say that the maboya has eaten the moon. They dance all the night and dare not stop once they have started. [370] They do not know the line of the equinox, but know very well when the sun passes and repasses its zenith, that is to say, straight above their head. [210] They have no clocks nor any knowledge of hours, [805] and when we say "What time is it?" they say "Where is the sun?" If it is nine o'clock they say "The sun is quite high." If it is afternoon they say "The sun turns." At four o'clock they say "It is not yet too late." [263] The Caribs have terms for "full moon," "zenith of the moon," "no more moon," "end of the moon," and "eclipsed moon" [163, 370], and "first day of the moon." [374] They count years by the passing of the Pleiades for they say, "How many Pleiades does your son have?" which means how old is he. [163] When the Caribs see some comet they say that it is a sign or warning for them. [88] [They know some planets, cf. 338, 431, 473; and some constellations, cf. 65, 163, 165, 186, 192, 194, 265, 289, 406, 421.--Editor]

● 802 The Caribs count up to five and no further. To express ten they say "all the fingers." If there is less they bend their fingers accordingly. If they wish to count up to twenty they open their fingers and then indicate their toes and say "fingers and toes." If they wish to count even more they say as many as hairs on the head or grains of sand on the seashore. [78] They have the names for only four colors: yellow, red, white, and black. [239]

000 The Caribs willingly brought me letters coming from Guadeloupe because they believed that these letters talked with me, and that I had a god as do their boyes who advised me about everything in these letters. This is because they did not yet grasp the meaning of our writing. [300]

done them. They swim like fish. In war it does not matter if their canoe capsizes for they know how to right it very easily and get inside it again. They always carry their hammocks with them.

7. Lore and Learning

802 The Caribs do not count higher than ten, and they demonstrate it by their fingers. Sometimes they count to twenty, or twice ten, showing both fingers and toes. To express a greater number they pick up some sand and throw it, and they say, "as many as flies," or "very many," or "as much as this." They count months by moons and count days by nights, for they say, "I will be there for so many nights," or "I will return after so many nights." They also express with their hands and arms how they consider and measure the goodness of nations. They point to their entire hand and a part of their arm and say to us that France is as good as this. For the Flemish or Dutch they show the hand and say "as good as this." The English are the worst in their estimation, and they only indicate them by showing the tips of their fingers. It is possible that when they speak of the French in their absence, or before men of other nations, they do not maintain the same division. They use little tobacco and like to mock the Europeans who come so far to these islands seeking this miserable weed.

198 They have their own particular language, which I believe is very hard to learn. Besides this they have a jargon mixed with French, Spanish, English, and Flemish. The trade they have had with those nations has caused the Caribs to learn some of the words of these languages, so that in a short time one is able to understand and be understood by them. This will be a great advantage for their instruction.

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13 (1650-1700)

MYTHOLOGY

776 821 Upon questioning by the missionaries, the *Carib* stated their belief in an unnamed superior power who lived in heaven and was endowed with all goodness. They regarded the earth as an indulgent mother, who furnished them with the things necessary for life.

The sun, moon, and other heavenly bodies were supposed to be human. The sun (noun) was considered a male; as ruler of the stars he prevented their shining during the daytime. He also warmed the stars, and they were believed to become ill during eclipses of the sun when the warming was not possible. The moon (houiou) was female; at first she shone during the daytime, but the coming of the sun filled her with shame and thereafter she appeared only at night. A star named Achinoin was said to be the cause of light rain and strong winds; another star, called Couroumon, controlled the tides and caused the heavy waves which upset canoes. To a *Carib*, Savacou, who became a bird and later a star, was attributed control over the thunder and strong winds. Other stars, the rainbow, and a comet were given similar mythological backgrounds. The first waters in the world were said to be the perspiration and urine of these spirits; the waters became fresh only when the salinity was strained out of them by the ground. Later the stars caused a great flood because the *Carib* failed to worship them.

776 The *Carib* believed that their ancestors had emerged from the navel (or the nostrils and an incision in the thigh) of a man named Louquo, who had descended from heaven, bringing manioc roots and showing the people how to cultivate them and to prepare food. He also explained how to build houses, and according to one version he was the creator of the earth and of fish, which he made out of fragments of manioc bread. Three days after his death Louquo was said to have returned to the sky.

LORE AND LEARNING

[822 ● 805 The *Carib* recognized only four colors—white, black, yellow, and red. They counted up to 20 on their fingers and toes. As already described, they had several methods of recording the time until a rendezvous. Their chiefs, shamans, and old men kept track of the time, counting the months by the moons, the seasons by the passing of the sun over the zenith, and the years by the rise and fall of the Pleiades. They also predicted the coming of winds and rains by the ascension of certain constellations which, as described above, were believed to control the weather.

173 The people stated that they originally came from the mainland to conquer the *Arawak* whom they found living in the Lesser Antilles. They were fond of recounting deeds of bravery in warfare but otherwise do not seem to have had any interest in their past history.